



NEWS RELEASE

DIVISION OF POLICE • COLUMBUS, OHIO

KIMBERLEY K. JACOBS • CHIEF OF POLICE

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Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

The holiday shopping season has officially started! The Columbus Division of Police is offering the following safety tips. Same tips apply to making local Buy/Sell/Trade internet purchases:

- Carry no more cash than absolutely necessary. If you are carrying cash, safeguard your money by carrying it in your front pocket. Never display a large amount of cash. If possible, pay by check, credit card or debit card.
- Take an inventory of your purse or wallet. Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- If you must carry a wallet, place it in your front pocket. If you are carrying a purse, carry it securely across your body. Never leave your purse unattended anywhere.
- Don't leave cell phones, purses, CD cases or other items of value in your vehicle where they can be seen. Always conceal items of value.
- Lock purchased merchandise in the trunk of your vehicle.
- Park in a well lit area and lock your vehicle. If you valet park, only leave the ignition key. Take your other keys with you.
- Stay alert to your surroundings. Criminals step up their activities during the holidays. If you are approached by a stranger with a deal that sounds too good to be true, it usually is. Report any suspicious activity to the police at 614-645-4545.
- Report thefts immediately, no matter how insignificant. Police use crime reports to determine how to better serve the public: www.columbus.gov/police.

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